

Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. 20525

March 31, 1980

Mr. Ronald K. Peterson
Office of Management & Budget
7208 New Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ron:

I am herewith transmitting for review, a prepared statement I would like to submit to the Select Committees on Intelligence of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, in connection with their consideration of H.R. 6588 and S.2284.

It is my understanding that both committees will be continuing hearings soon after the Easter recess. I would like to be in the position to submit my statement to them at that time.

I would appreciate your review and clearance of this statement. Please feel free to contact the Peace Corps' Counsel, Jonathan Marks, or me if there is need to discuss the statement.

Many thanks.

With best regards,

Richard F. Celeste

Richard F. Celeste
Director

STATINTL

cc: Keith Hall, OMB

Comments please AGAP

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I want to express my firm support for Section 132 (b) of Senator Huddleston's Bill, S.2284. That provision prohibits the intelligence community from using the Peace Corps, among other public and private organizations, as a cover for intelligence activities.

My support for this measure does not stem from any current problems between the Peace Corps and the intelligence community. In fact, since its inception, the Peace Corps has enjoyed the full cooperation of the intelligence agencies in maintaining its total separateness from any activity even remotely associated with the gathering, interpretation or dissemination of intelligence information, or with covert activities carried out by such agencies.

Nevertheless, I see this provision as a logical and useful extension of public pronouncements made since 1961 by the President and other administration figures, which have consistently emphasized the need for a sharp separation between the activities of the Peace Corps and those of the CIA and other intelligence agencies. The most recent statement of this policy was by Secretary Vance in a cable to all diplomatic and consular posts in March 1978. In this message on State Department-Peace Corps relations, the Secretary of State asserted that the "separation between the Peace Corps and intelligence activities must be complete and absolute. Peace Corps staff should not [even] be included in meetings where defense or intelligence issues are discussed."

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Peace Corps' great concern with maintaining a total separation between our personnel and programs and those of the intelligence community derives from the certain knowledge that our most important asset in providing assistance to developing nations is our credibility. There have been forces throughout the history of Peace Corps who have sought to discredit our efforts and force our expulsion from various countries by characterizing our programs as a cover for the activities of the CIA, and our volunteers as spies and CIA agents. Serving in remote, often inaccessible areas, our volunteers are extremely vulnerable to such irresponsible attacks. I am convinced that one essential factor which has allowed us to continue to serve in the face of such charges is the fact that in the 19 years of the Peace Corps' existence, no one has ever been able to produce a shred of evidence indicating that any Peace Corps volunteer or program has any connection whatsoever with any United States Government intelligence activity.

Section 132 (b) of Mr. Huddleston's Bill, taken together with the statements of successive Presidents and Secretaries of State, serves to underscore the totality of the United States Government's commitment to maintain the Peace Corps' integrity and separateness from intelligence work. It will enable Peace Corps volunteers and staff to respond to those who seek to undermine our programs by noting that the United States Congress had made interference

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by the intelligence community in the affairs of Peace Corps
a violation of American law.

Thus, while I want to emphasize that we have received
full cooperation from the various intelligence agencies
through their commitment to avoid involvement of any
sort with our programs, I strongly support this unequivocal
expression of Congressional support for the maintenance
of the policy of isolating Peace Corps from intelligence
activities. This limitation is a small but essential
element in devising a proper charter for America's
intelligence activities.

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1 PART D—LIMITATIONS ON INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES

2 PROHIBITION ON ASSASSINATION

3 SEC. 131. No person employed by or acting on behalf of
4 the United States Government shall engage or conspire to
5 engage in assassination.

6 INTEGRITY OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED
7 STATES

8 SEC. 132. (a) The President shall establish public guide-
9 lines for the intelligence activities of the entities of the intelli-
10 gence community to protect the integrity and independence
11 of private institutions of the United States in accordance with
12 constitutional principles.

13 (b) No entity of the intelligence community may use, for
14 the purpose of establishing or maintaining cover for any offi-
15 cer of that entity to engage in foreign intelligence activities
16 or special activities, any affiliation, real or ostensible, with
17 any United States religious organization, United States
18 media organization, United States educational institution, the
19 Peace Corps, or any United States Government program de-
20 signed to promote education, the arts, humanities, or cultural
21 affairs through international exchanges.

22 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
23 voluntary contacts or the voluntary exchange of information
24 between any person and any entity of the intelligence com-
25 munity.